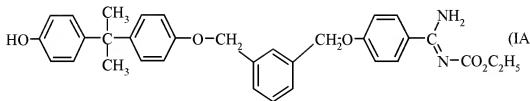


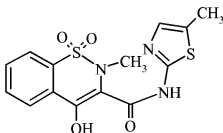
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 3, 5-8 and 13-17 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 2 and 5-8 have been cancelled. The Applicants have amended claims 3, 13 and 15-16 and added new claim 18 as shown above. No new matter is added by the amendments. In view of the foregoing amendments and following discussion, the applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 5-8 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderskewitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,332) in view of Gregory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,096). The applicants have canceled claims 2 and 5-8, amended claims 3, 13 and 15-16, and added new claim 18. The combination of Anderskewitz et al. and Gregory et al. does not result in the claimed invention. Amended claim 3 recites a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of inflammation consisting essentially of the compound of formula (IA)



and meloxicam of formula

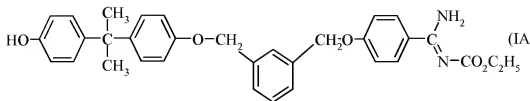


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. By the foregoing amendment to claim 3 the applicants submit amended claim 3 is commensurate in scope with the super-additive results disclosed on lines 20-25 of page 16 of the specification. Anderskewitz et al. does not teach a LTB₄ antagonist with a COX-2 inhibitor let alone any synergistic effect of such a combination therapy (see column 5, lines 20-22). Gregory et al. does not teach the claimed LTB₄ antagonist

and meloxicam let alone a synergistic effect. It would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the LTB₄ antagonist of formula IA and meloxicam to treat inflammation in amended claim 3 resulting in a synergistic effect. Thus, claim 3 is not obvious over Anderskewitz et al. in view of Gregory et al., and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, the applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

Amended claim 15 recites a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 3 wherein the weight ratio of LTB₄ antagonist to meloxicam ranges from 1:10 up to 1:30. Amended claim 16 recites a pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 3 wherein a single application dose contains 1 to 5,000 milligrams of the combined active ingredients. Tables 2-3 on pages 13-15 of the specification provide data showing that a combination treatment of a LTB₄ antagonist (formula IA) and meloxicam, at a weight ratio of 1:20 (formula IA:meloxicam) ranging in dose from 0.1 mg/kg formula IA / 2 mg/kg meloxicam to 0.8 mg/kg formula IA / 16 mg/kg meloxicam, were unexpectedly and significantly more effective than even higher doses of either compound alone. Furthermore, given the fact that the unexpected synergistic effect was observed over a range of doses, the data also suggest the synergistic effect would be maintained over a range of weight ratios. Thus, claims 14-17 which depend from claim 3 are also not obvious and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, the applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

Amended claim 13 recites a pharmaceutical kit for the treatment of inflammation consisting essentially of two separate unit dosage forms (A) and (B): (A) comprises a composition containing a LTB₄ antagonist, of formula (IA)



or a tautomer, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof; and (B) comprises meloxicam, and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient. For the same reasons as stated above, amended claim 13 is not obvious over Anderskewitz et al.

in view of Gregory et al. and is thus allowable. Accordingly, the applicants request the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited. The fees for an RCE and a one (1) month extension of time are included herewith. In the event that there are any fees dues and owing in connection with this matter, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Timothy X. Gibson/

Timothy X. Gibson, Reg. No. 40,618
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Patent Department
Boehringer Ingelheim Corp.
900 Ridgebury Road
P.O. Box 368
Ridgefield, CT. 06877
Tel.: (203) 798-4868